

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2 and 5 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 10 through 12 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A control method in a printing control apparatus capable of executing printing processing of a predetermined output method using a plurality of member printers, comprising:

a first activation step of activating a first user interface based on functions of the plurality of member printers concerning a virtual printer, in accordance with designation of the virtual printer corresponding to a first output method; ~~and~~

a second activation step of activating a second user interface corresponding to a printer driver of a representative member printer which becomes representative when a virtual printer corresponding to a second output method is designated; and

a designation step of issuing, to the member printer, designation of converting a drawing instruction based on intermediate data created on a basis of application data into a predetermined page description language.

wherein the second activation step further provides a user interface containing a setting item for creating the intermediate data upon activation of the second user interface, and

wherein the setting item for creating the intermediate data contains a compression method setting item for the intermediate data.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 1, wherein the user interface contains an item for setting or changing an arrangement of the plurality of member printers.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 1, wherein the setting item for creating the intermediate data is contained in the first or second user interface.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising an adoption step of adopting a different conflict method in accordance with a combination of types of the plurality of member printers,

wherein the first user interface is based on the conflict method adopted in the adoption step.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the types of the plurality of member printers are determined in accordance with whether a function can be controlled.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a change step of changing the representative member printer in the virtual printer corresponding to the second output method,

wherein the second activation step activates the second user interface which reflects a change of the representative member printer in the change step.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein
the second output method includes a redirect printing output method of printing by redirecting a printer when an error occurs in a printer which has transmitted a print job, and
the first output method includes a distributed printing output method.

10. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus which performs printing control capable of executing a predetermined output method using a plurality of member printers, comprising:

activation means for activating a first user interface based on functions of the plurality of member printers concerning a virtual printer of a first output method, in accordance with designation of the virtual printer corresponding to the first output method, wherein said activation means activates a second user interface corresponding to a printer driver of a representative member printer which becomes representative when a virtual printer corresponding to a second output method is designated; and

designation means for issuing, to the member printer, designation of converting a drawing instruction based on intermediate data created on a basis of application data into a predetermined page description language.

wherein said activation means further provides a user interface containing a setting item for creating the intermediate data upon activation of the second user interface, and

wherein the setting item for creating the intermediate data contains a compression method setting item for the intermediate data.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a computer-executable program stored thereon for performing printing control capable of executing a predetermined output method using a plurality of member printers, the program comprising:

code so as to activate a first user interface based on functions of the plurality of member printers concerning a virtual printer of a first output method, in accordance with designation of the virtual printer corresponding to the first output method; ~~and~~

code so as to activate a second user interface corresponding to a printer driver of a representative member printer which becomes representative when a virtual printer corresponding to a second output method is designated; and

code so as to issue, to the member printer, designation of converting a drawing instruction based on intermediate data created on a basis of application data into a predetermined page description language.

wherein the code so as to activate the second user interface further provides a user interface containing a setting item for creating the intermediate data upon activation of the second user interface, and

wherein the setting item for creating the intermediate data contains a compression method setting item for the intermediate data.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer executable program stored on an apparatus-readable storage medium for performing printing control capable of executing a predetermined output method using a plurality of member printers, comprising:

code so as to activate a first user interface based on functions of the plurality of member printers concerning a virtual printer of a first output method, in accordance with designation of the virtual printer corresponding to the first output method; and

code so as to activate a second user interface corresponding to a printer driver of a representative member printer which becomes representative when a virtual printer corresponding to a second output method is designated; and

code so as to issue, to the member printer, designation of converting a drawing instruction based on intermediate data created on a basis of application data into a predetermined page description language.

wherein the code so as to activate the second user interface further provides a user interface containing a setting item for creating the intermediate data upon activation of the second user interface, and

wherein the setting item for creating the intermediate data contains a compression method setting item for the intermediate data.